The Gauge

LOCAL 891 AFL-CIO

INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 3

November 2014

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday November 6, 2014 - 7 p.m.
IS 239, 2401 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y 11224

DOMENIC M. RECCHIA JR. ADDRESSES THE MEMBERSHIP AT OCTOBER UNION MEETING

THE ENGINEERS REPORT

Reprinted from City & State magazine

Custodian Engineers: Doing More with Less for Too Long

Robert J. Troeller
Business Manager & President
IUOE Local 891

As the Business Manager/President of IUOE Local 891, I am proud to represent New York City's 800 Public School Custodian Engineers. Our members have the responsibility to ensure our children and all others who enter our schools have a safe and clean environment in which to learn and work. Unfortunately, the Bloomberg administration failed to provide our members with the necessary help.

Not only have my members and the custodial workers they supervise not received a contractual raise since 2007, during his tenure Mayor Bloomberg reduced the custodial budgets used to operate the schools by over $58 million. Combined with the deliberate $25 million reduction in spending on after-school activities over the past three years, the result is the equivalent loss of over 2,000 full-time custodial workers system-wide.

Thankfully, Mayor de Blasio, the UFT and several other unions have negotiated a new wage pattern that I believe is both fair to the workforce and fiscally responsible. And, it is at the bargaining table and not by challenging City and State prevailing wage laws, where my Union and the other unions representing custodial workers should secure their much needed raises.

Custodial budgets are based entirely on a manpower allocation calculated according to the estimated staffing needs of that building. There is absolutely no funding provided to purchase materials or supplies. Rather, each Custodian Engineer receives an annual supply allocation in the form of a credit with a single vendor, SDI. Despite inflation, higher costs for environmentally safer cleaning products, energy-saving light bulbs and all other rising costs, the dollars allocated to each school have not increased for more than 20 years.

Today, a typical school building's "annual supply allocation" will only cover the cost of six to seven months of supplies. As a result Custodian Engineers must utilize their labor budget to purchase necessary supplies allocation. It's time the DOE allow the most efficient use of its limited resources by providing Custodian Engineers with approved vendors who have bid based on specific material costs. Foolishly, the Department of School Facilities requires almost all additional purchases be made through a sole-source vendor. The price of materials and supplies through that company are significantly higher than the price of identical items on the open market.

This process deserves a serious investigation and oversight. New dangers such as the hanta-virus scare, lead dust, lead caulking, swine flu (H1N1) and PCBs leaking from fluorescent light fixtures have all resulted in additional mandated protocols with additional cleaning requirements for my members and their staff. Not one of these mandates came with additional funding.

It has been 10 years since the City Council passed a resolution condemning the wasteful and dangerous practice of outsourcing custodial services to private, profit motivated contractors. The hearings and investigation which led to that Resolution proved that private cleaning companies were not only more costly than Civil Service Custodian Engineers they were more prone to dangerous mishaps due to inexperienced and unqualified supervisors.

Yet, the Department of Education continues to utilize private facilities management companies in more than 100 school buildings. The cost differential has continued to grow due to the budget cuts my members have experienced. It is long past time that this waste of taxpayer dollars comes to an end.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

BROOKLYN

The Boro of Brooklyn will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 10th, 2014 Buckley's Restaurant located on Nostrand Avenue and Avenue S, Brooklyn, New York. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $75.00 per person. Contact:

Joseph Reilly at (718) 253-1412.

BRONX/MANHATTAN

The Boros of the Bronx and Manhattan will be holding their Annual Christmas Party together on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at Rory Dolan's; 890 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, New York.

Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $75.00 per person.

For more information please contact:

Bronx: Henry Witkowski at (718) 231-7453
Manhattan: Michael Reilly at (212) 348-3705

RICHMOND

The Boro of Richmond will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 8, 2014 at Canlon's Restaurant, 1825 North Railroad Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. 10306. Cocktails begin at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are 50.00 per person. For more information please contact:

Tim Thompson at (718) 698-1215.

QUEENS

The Boro of Queens will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at Douglaston Manor, 63-20 Commonwealth Blvd. Douglaston, N.Y. 11363

Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are 75.00 per person.

For more information please contact:

Anthony Gigantiello (718) 779-2848.
Gary Viola (718) 793-4238

2014 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE OF RICHMOND COUNTY OCTOBER 23, 2014

Left to right: Evan Manca; Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., candidate for U.S. Congress; Paul Magliocco and Marco Saponara.

Left to right: Paul Magliocco; Thomas DiNapoli, N.Y.S. Comptroller; John Sollazzo, Democratic Committee of Richmond County; Evan Manca; Marco Saponara and Edward Brier , Jr.

DID YOU KNOW?

Exceptions- If you receive an exception, you only have 30 days to file a grievance.

Final Audit Reports- You only have 30 days to file a grievance.

Electronic PO 2 - As per the CBA you do not have to enter the bill date or the check date. Also you do not have to enter the word "cash" in any column.

RETIRING

Custodian Engineers are reminded that they should contact their Union prior to retirement. Information regarding benefits and insurance policies are discussed. Answers to your questions at this time may save you a lot of work later during retirement.

New York State AFL-CIO
Helping Working Families Achieve A Better Life

Mario F. Cilento
President

Terrence L. Melvin
Secretary-Treasurer

50 Broadway, 35th Fl.
New York, NY 10004
(212) 777-6040
Fax - (212) 777-8422

100 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 436-8516
Fax - (518) 436-8470

New York State AFL-CIO
2014 COPE CONVENTION ENDORSEMENTS
POST PRIMARY

Comptroller	Thomas DiNapoli
AG	Eric Schneiderman

United States Congress

1.	Timothy H. Bishop	11.	Domenic Recchia, Jr.	20.	Paul Tonko
3.	Steve J. Israel	12.	Carolyn Maloney	21.	Aaron Woolf
4.	Kathleen Rice	13.	Charles Rangel	23.	Martha Robertson
6.	Grace Meng	14.	Joe Crowley	24.	Dan Maffei
7.	Nydia Velazquez	15.	Jose Serrano	25.	Louise Slaughter
8.	Hakeem Jefferies	16.	Eliot Engel	26.	Brian Higgins
9.	Yvette Clarke	17.	Nita Lowey		
10.	Jerrold Nadler	18.	Sean Patrick Maloney		

New York State Senate

1. Kenneth P. LaValle	26. Daniel Squadron	47. Joseph Griffo
4. Phil Boyle	27. Brad Hoylman	48. Patty Ritchie
5. Carl Marcellino	28. Liz Krueger	49. Hugh Farley
6. Kemp Hannon	29. Jose Serrano	50. John Defrancisco
8. Dave Denenberg	30. Bill Perkins	51. James Seward
9. Dean G. Skelos	32. Rev. Ruben Diaz, Sr.	52. Thomas Libous
10. James Sanders, Jr.	33. Gustavo Rivera	53. David Valesky
12. Michael Gianaris	34. Jeffrey Klein	54. Michael Nozzolio
13. Jose Peralta	35. Andrea Stewart-Cousins	55. Ted O'Brien
14. Leroy Comrie	36. Ruth Hassell-Thompson	56. Joseph Robach
15. Joseph Addabbo	37. George Latimer	57. Catherine M. Young
16. Toby Ann Stavisky	38. David Carlucci	58. Thomas O'Mara
18. Martin Malave Dilan	39. William J. Larkin, Jr.	61. Elaine Altman
20. Jesse Hamilton	40. Justin Wagner	63. Tim Kennedy
21. Kevin S. Parker	41. Terry Gipson	
23. Diane M. Savino	42. John J. Bonacic	
24. Andrew J. Lanza	44. Neil Breslin	
25. Velmanette Montgomery	46. Cecilia Tkaczyk	

LOCAL 891 PROUDLY ANNOUNCES OUR 17TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

The greatest joy is the gift of giving. We, as a Union, will be giving gifts to school children in Brooklyn. Many of these children are from modest or low income homes. We want to make this our best holiday party ever and a memorable day for the children. Pedro Arroyo and I have the distinction of being Santa this year. We invite you to share in this wonderful event with a gift for a child or a monetary donation that the Union will use to purchase a gift for a child. Your willingness and commitment to share with these children is proof positive that you and your families are the true Santas of the season! Shop for a toy in the price range of $30 to $35. If you cannot personally shop for a gift, you can make a monetary donation. We need to have a gift for each child at the school. It is only a reasonable request that each child receives a gift of equal value. Shop early and submit your gift to your Borough Chairman. Each Borough Chairman will be working with me to make this party a tremendous success.

Your Borough Chairman and District Stewards have the ages and genders. Therefore, we can make sure each child gets a gift.

Once again, we turn to our retirees and strongly encourage them to help us attain this large volume of gifts that we will need for the party. Your participation is needed if we are to be successful in this endeavor. If you wish to send a check for a child's gift, the check is made payable to Local 891. Kindly mail it to: Peter Maddaloni; Custodian Engineer's Office; 51- 60 Marathon Parkway, Little Neck, New York 11362. If you need additional information, call Peter Maddaloni at (718) 455-9731 ext. 223.

I know we can count on each and every member of Local 891 to open their hearts this holiday season. A school full of children are counting on us. Let's make their holidays happy ones. Thank you for your generosity and putting a smile on a child's face with your holiday gift!

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what our bank account was, the sort of house we lived in, or the kind of car we drove, but the world may be different because we were important in the life of a child."

Submitted By: Peter J. Maddaloni
Children's Holiday Party Chairman

PRINCIPAL RATING

Members are reminded they only have 30 days to grieve a Principal's Rating. Any member wishing to grieve a rating should contact their Borough Chairman. Please contact your Union immediately upon receiving a Principal's Rating you wish to grieve.

VARIABLE RATE

The Pension Committee reports that the Variable Unit value for the month of October 2014 is $89.093.

HOSPITALIZATION
NOVEMBER 1- NOVEMBER 30, 2014
FALL TRANSFER PERIOD FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

All RETIRED Local 891 members will be able to change their health insurance coverage and add or drop optional riders during the Transfer Period, which as of the printing of this publication will be held from November 1st thru November 30th. **Remember, to be eligible for the Local 891 Welfare Fund Catastrophic insurance you must be enrolled in GHI/CBP {with optional rider.}** If you are enrolled in any other plan you are ineligible for this benefit.

Each plan has its benefits and drawbacks, so I suggest three sets of considerations for members to evaluate as they search for the plan that will provide the best coverage for them at a price they can afford:

- Who are the physicians and what are the hospitals affiliated with the plan? If you want to continue treatment with a physician you have been seeing, you should check whether you could continue coverage through a plan. Another consideration is whether your local hospital, where your local physicians are likely to have privileges, is affiliated with a plan you are considering.
- How does the plan fit your budget? Cost factors are important considerations. For example, some plans require payroll deductions for basic coverage. The cost of optional riders differs. Some plans require a co-payment for each routine doctor visit. Some plans require payment of a yearly deductible before the plan reimburses the cost of using non-participating providers. If a plan does not cover certain types of services that you expect to use, you must also consider the out-of-pocket cost of these services.
- What are the individual medical needs of you and your family? If you have a young family, you might emphasize maternity or pediatric benefits. If you suffer from allergies, look for a plan that best meets your needs. As your needs change, you can change your plan during transfer periods.

To help members make decisions, please refer to the summary plan description booklet that can be accessed online at **http://www.nyc.gov/html/olr/html/health/health_benefits_prog.shtml** to compare the various plans available to NYC employees and retirees. The current rates can be viewed from the same location.

The same health plans that were available to members last year are again available during this transfer period.

The city offers the GHI PPO/Indemnity plan, eight HMO plans and two POS plans. Some of these plans have payroll deductions for basic coverage. In the POS-type plan, members may receive care from doctors within the plan's network, at little or no out-of-pocket cost, or they may choose physicians outside the network. If non-participating providers are used, members must first pay for services and then file a claim.

Reimbursements will be reduced by deductibles and co-insurance and is calculated differently for each plan. Also, out-of-network allowances vary by plan, as do procedures for going outside the network.

The POS plans are: HIP Prime POS; and Aetna/US Healthcare Quality Point of Service.

The currently available plans-GHI-CBP/Empire Blue Cross, HIP/Prime, Cigna healthcare, GHI/HMO, Empire EPO, Empire HMO, Aetna/US Healthcare HMO, VYTRA and HealthNet-will continue to be offered.

All plans provide basic coverage for unmarried dependent children up to age 26. Coverage terminates at the end of the month the dependant turns 26.

RETIRED members must have their applications received by November 30th 2014. Changes will become effective January 2015.

Retirees must complete an ERB 2000 form and submit it to Employees Benefit Program Retiree Unit 3rd Floor 40 Rector Street New York, NY 10006. Please note that if you are transferring into or out of a Medicare HMO it is important that you refer to the 2014 Summary Program Description booklet for instructions, which can also be viewed online at **http://www.nyc.gov/html/olr/html/health/health_benefits_prog.shtml**

The ERB 2000 form can be downloaded from the above site and the Local 891 website for both active members and retirees.

Please be advised effective immediately, Dependant Eligibility Requirements have changed. Please see below for the for the new documentation requirements.

Spouse: Married one year or less-Government Issued Marriage Certificate. Married more than one year-Government Issued Marriage Certificate AND ONE of the following:

- Federal tax return filed within last two years and listing spouse as joint or individual.
- Proof of joint ownership (bank account, auto, home, etc.) issued within last six months.
- Proof of cohabitation (two separate documents-one in your name and one in your spouse's name at the same address.)

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Domestic Partner: Partnership of one year or less-Domestic Partnership of Registration. Partnership of more than one year-Domestic Partnership Certificate of Registration and ONE of the following:

- Proof of joint ownership (bank account, auto, home, etc.) issued within last six months.
- Proof of cohabitation (two separate documents-one in your name and one in your domestic partners name at the same address.)

Step child: Must be spouse's child. One of the following combinations of documents:

- Government Issued Birth Certificate (including parent's names) AND Government Issued Marriage Certificate if married one year or less.
- Government Issued Birth Certificate (including parent's names) AND Government Issued Marriage Certificate AND Federal tax return filed within last two years listing souse as joint or individual.
- Government Issued Birth Certificate (including parent's names) AND Government Issued Marriage Certificate AND proof of joint ownership (bank account, auto, home, etc.) issued within last six.

Domestic Partner's child: Must be registered domestic partner's child. ONE of the following combinations of documents:

- Government Issued Birth Certificate (including parent's names) and Domestic Partnership Certificate of Registration if partnership of one year or less.
- Government Issued Birth Certificate (including parent's names) AND Domestic Partnership Certificate of Registration AND proof of joint ownership (bank account, auto, home, etc.) issued within last six months.

If you have questions, need applications, forms, do not hesitate to call me at 718.455.9731 ext.261 or, e-mail me at Hospitalization@local891.com.

Submitted By: Andrew Samberg, Hospitalization

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of the following Brother

William T. Hind
Retired Custodian Engineer Level II (R435)
Condolences may be sent to
Margaret Hind
965A Thornbury Lane
Manchester, NJ 08759

SUPPLIES

Local 891 advises all of its members not to enter into any long term contracts with any vendor under any circumstances. Follow the purchasing guidelines in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. Please contact me if you are uncertain of the proper policies before you make any commitments.

Submitted By: Michael Kelly
Supply Committee Chairman

STORY/ IDEA?

The Gauge is always looking for interesting material to share with the Brothers and Sisters. If you have an interesting job-related story or photo send it to:

Editor of "The Gauge"
John Brennan
443 West 135th Street
New York, N.Y 10031

BLOOD BANK

The next Local 891 Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday November 21st

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Friday, November 21 from 8am to 1pm at the offices of Local 891. If you plan on donating, check your building before coming to donate. Please retain your original donor receipt and mail a copy to the committee. As in the past we look forward to seeing as many members as we can to volunteer for this worthy cause. Both sites are confirmed open:

1. Local 891 Union Office
2. Melville Site–905 Walt Whitman Road (Route 110) in the shopping center.

Submitted By: Evan Manca, Blood Bank Committee Chairman

The Gauge
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LOCAL 891 IUOE
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www.Local891.com
1-888-891-2226 (Outside NY area only)

To Reach Anyone Listed Below, Dial the Main Union Phone Number and then the Extension

BUSINESS MANAGER/PRESIDENT	**ROBERT J. TROELLER**
Vice President	**Jeffrey J. Bilek**
Recording-Corresponding Secretary	**Francis J. Byrne**
Financial Secretary	**Kevin J. Gallagher**
Treasurer	**Gary A. Chiappetta**

Boro Chairmen

Bronx	220	Pedro Arroyo
Brooklyn	221	Rocco Marano
Manhattan	222	Kieran McKivergan
Queens	223	Peter Maddaloni
Staten Island	224	Steve Ready

Committee Chairs

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Web Master	274	Dan Morgan
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NYC Central Labor Council Delegate	276	Richard Gorgoglione

Welfare & Annuity Funds
Kevin J. Gallagher, Chairman of Trustees
63 Flushing Ave. • Unit 358 • Brooklyn, NY 11205
Ph: (718) 455-9731 Ext. 301 • Fx: (718) 488-7122
welfarefund@local891.com
Dental Forms (718) 822-2098
Legal Services (718) 895-7160
Daniel H. Cook Associates
welfare forms • eye care vouchers • claims information
253 W. 35th St., 12th Floor • New York, N.Y. 10001
(212) 505-5050 ext. 229
Newsletter Design & Printing: AliGraphics

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PAYROLL & PERMITS

HOLIDAY

Tuesday November 11, (Veterans' Day), Thursday November 27 and Friday November 28, (Thanksgiving) are holidays for all CE's and their staff. **Friday November 28 is not in the schedule and therefore reimbursable up to 3 premium hours for 1 employee.**

AFTER SCHOOL FEES

Please note the error in the October 2014 Gauge. In the 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM time frame for weekday activity, a school building 61,000 sq. ft. and up the amount of units is **unlimited**.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Election Day is a regular work day for all CE's and their staff. All employees in attendance on that day are entitled to receive a floating holiday. **No permit is required for the Board of Elections. However, a space sheet must be submitted to receive payment.**

OVERLAPPING ACTIVITY

If a school building has overlapping activity where two separate groups are simultaneously using the school in two separate areas, **the CE will be paid for labor only one time.**

REGISTER PERCENTAGE

CE's who are receiving 112 monies and transfer in the middle of a month will receive a pro-rated portion of the 112 money for that assignment.

DOE SHOP MECHANICS

When CE's receive instruction to open their school buildings on week-ends or after hours, for shop mechanic work, no permit is required. The CE will receive a work order number which should be written on the space sheet along with the trade in the Name of Organization area. Submit space sheet to Dorrien Bedford (Permit Unit) 44-36 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101.

Submitted By: Tony Fitapelli
Permit/Payroll Committee Chairman